

To: Garrison, Geoffrey[Garrison.Geoffrey@epa.gov]
Cc: Vaouli, Elena[Vaouli.Elena@epa.gov]
From: Escobar, Leah
Sent: Sat 3/21/2015 12:44:09 AM
Subject: Re: Suspected Methyl Bromide Release/Exposure, St. Johns USVI

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Geoff,

If the hospital requires some assistance from a doc that has environmental and chemical exposure expertise, we can provide a name. We have connections with ACMT -American College of Medical Toxicologists and I think they could consult by phone. Or the hospital could contact Poison Control directly.

I am not sure if Michelle Watters is available but could also reach out to her.

Just let us know what we can do to assist.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 20, 2015, at 7:41 PM, Garrison, Geoffrey <Garrison.Geoffrey@epa.gov> wrote:

At approximately 1640 hours I received notification of a potential chemical substance exposure that occurred in St. John, USVI. I was provided with the telephone number of a friend of the family who was affected, and who was familiar with the potential exposure details. The summary of those details follow:

A family of four persons was staying at La Sirena Villa, a relatively new condo in Coral Bay, St. John. They started their stay approximately 5 days ago, and slowly started showing neurological symptoms of chemical exposure. Last night their symptoms worsened to the point where they required medical care. They are currently in the St. Thomas Hospital where at least two members of the family are hospitalized. The suspected cause is Methyl Bromide (ATSDR ToxFAQ, and a Fact Sheet pulled from the internet are attached). However, I am not certain as to how that particular substance, (which is a restricted use pesticide, and was to be phased out of production in the US by 2005 - according to the 2000 FS and the EPA ozone webpage <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr/>) was pinpointed as the cause. According to the ToxFAQ there are medical tests available that can determine exposure to this substance.

Response actions to date:

I alerted ERRD, both Mark Pane and Eric Wilson of the potential exposure, who in turn notified senior staff, and RST as to the potential for deployment to the island to investigate the source. One of the main concerns being that if the exposure route for this incident was

breathing air in the living quarters due to misapplication of a pesticide, that other occupants could potentially be exposed. This particular contaminant can exhibit high toxicity depending on concentration. I contacted DPNR, Jamal Nielsen, who is looking into mobilizing his pesticide and air program staff. I also contacted Leah Graciano with ATSDR who will look into supporting our investigation (sampling methodology etc.).

More details to follow as they are available, I stand ready to mobilize along with RST tomorrow to assess the potential for further exposure.

Geoffrey M. Garrison

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<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npgd0400.html>